

1. An antimicrobial composition comprising

5 (1) a mixture of iodide anions and thiocyanate anions,

(2) periodic acid or a salt thereof, and

10 (3) at least one polymer or copolymer comprising as units

(a) 5 to 100 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated monomer comprising nitrogen and/or phosphorous containing groups,

15 (b) 0 to 5 % by weight of at least one monoethylenically unsaturated comonomer comprising acidic groups,

(c) 0 to 75 % by weight of at least one further comonomer, and

20 (d) 0 to 5 % by weight of crosslinking comonomers.

2. A composition according to claim 1, wherein the amounts of the units of the copolymer are:

25 (a) 10 to 60 %,

(b) 20 to 70 %,

(c) 0 to 70 %, and

(d) 0 to 5 %.

30 3. A composition according to claims 1 or 2, wherein the composition is a liquid composition.

4. A composition according to claim 3, wherein the solvent of the composition comprises water.

35 5. A composition according to claims 3 and 4, wherein the concentrations of the components in the solution are

0,01 to 100 mmol/l periodic acid or salts thereof,

0,005 to 50 mmol/l iodide ions,

40 0,005 to 50 mmol/l thiocyanate ions, and

0,005 to 10 % by weight polymer or copolymer.

6. A composition according to claims 1 to 5, wherein the composition further comprises another biocidal active compound.
- 5 7. A composition according to claims 3 to 6, wherein the composition further comprises a surfactant or emulsifier and the liquid composition is an oil-in-water-emulsion or a surfactant based solution.
- 10 8. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 as a microbicide for skin antiseptics; antimicrobial soaps; suntans; disinfection of medical equipment; treatment of swimming pools etc., air-conditioning processes; sanitation of accommodation for man; chemical toilets; treatment of sewage/waste, hospital infectious waste and soil or other substances; laundry; disinfection of animal housing/stables/machinery/footwear, hatcheries, means of transport; fish farming; floors, walls, and equipment in food processing plants; or the manufacture of
- 15 aseptic packaging material.
9. Use of a composition according to any one of claims 1 to 7 as active component in deodorants, antibacterial skin washes, anti-acne preparations, anti-athletes foot preparations, anti-dandruff preparations, dental preparations, impregnated
- 20 materials, ophthalmic preparations or sterilants.